

Montana Democratic Women's Legislative Caucus 5534

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Senate Joint Resolution No. 34
April 1, 2009
Senate Education Committee

The members of the Montana Democratic Women's Caucus urge your support of SJR 34. As Montanans, we all want our children to receive a good education to give them a strong foundation for a healthy and productive life. Unfortunately, many children in Montana don't start out on a level playing field in our schools because their families live in poverty.

Randy Hoover, a professor at Youngstown State University, has conducted numerous studies on educational achievement. The three factors he found most likely to predict test performance for schools were 1) the percentage of single parent wage earners, 2) the percentage of children living in poverty and 3) the median family income in a school district. When Professor Hoover combined these factors, he found they were responsible for over 60 percent of a district's test performance.

Please vote Do Pass on SJR 34 so that we can have a better understanding of the impact of poverty on educational attainment in Montana.

Respectfully,

Representative Cheryl Steenson